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The early stages in the development of megaspores and also in the germination of the megaspore are normal; but a typical egg apparatus is not differentiated. The evidence that embryos are formed without fertilization is conclusive, but the evidence that some of the embryos may not come from nuclear tissue is not so conclusive. TREUB claims that the embryos come from contents of the embryo sac, but not from the egg, and consequently he uses the term apogamy rather than parthenogenesis.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Anatomical classification of ferns.—FERNAND PELOURDE²⁸ has attempted to discover an anatomical basis of classification for the ferns. A great amount of detailed structure is described, and, like every other attempt to use one kind of character, the result is a readjustment of some of the old taxonomic lines. The genera represented in France are described upon this new basis, but its application to a wider range of forms remains to be demonstrated. As an addition of certain characters, to be used in connection with all other available characters, the research is a contribution; but as presenting a set of determining characters it can hardly be accepted at this late day.—J. M. C.

Nomenclature of desmids.—NORDSTEDT²⁹ has proposed the following rules of nomenclature for the desmids: (1) The nomenclature begins with RALFS, *British Desmidiaceae*, 1848; (2) The authors of names given earlier and accepted by RALFS must always be cited. It is also suggested that standard works for other groups of algae may be used in the same way, as for instance: HIRN, *Monographie und Iconographie der Oedogoniaceen*, 1900; BORNET et FLAHAULT, *Revision des Nostocacées hétérocystées contenues dans les principaux herbiers de France*, 1886-88; GOMONT, *Monographie des Oscillariées (Nostocacées homocystées)*, 1893.—J. M. C.

Chestnut disease.—In two additional papers MURRILL³⁰ emphasizes the unusual destructiveness of a disease of the American chestnut first made known by him. This disease is so virulent that it threatens to destroy all the chestnut trees in New York City and perhaps over large areas. The cause of the trouble is a species of *Diaporthe* newly described as *D. parasitica*. From observations and from experiments it is evident that the fungus attacks the trees only by the way of wounds. Attempts to infect young uninjured twigs and unfolding leaves gave negative results. No satisfactory treatment has as yet been found.—H. HASSELBRING.

²⁸ PELOURDE, FERNAND, Recherches anatomique sur la classification des fougères de France. Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. IX. 4:261-372. figs. 80. 1906.

²⁹ NORDSTEDT, C. F. O., The starting point of the nomenclature of desmids. Botaniska Notiser 1906:97-118.

³⁰ MURRILL, W. A., A new chestnut disease. Torreya 6:186-189. 1906.

———, Further remarks on a serious chestnut disease. Jour. N. Y. Bot. Garden 7:203-211. figs. 25-30. 1906.